

Message Text

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12
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SCA-01 DRC-01 /092 W
----- 118911

P 150936Z JUL 74
FM AMCONSUL NAHA
TO AMEMB TOKYO
313TH AD KADENA
5TH AF FUCHU JAPAN
COMUSJ FUCHU JAPAN
CINCPAC/POLAD HAWAII
SECSTATE WASHDC 1446

UNCLAS NAHA 318

E. O. 11652: NA

TAGS: MARR JA

SUBJ: IE SHIMA INCIDENT PRESS REACTION

1. SUMMARY: OKINAWA PRESS CONTINUED INTO THE WEEKEND ITS
EXTENSIVE COVERAGE OF IE SHIMA INCIDENT. THE FOCUS HAS SHIFTED
FROM IMMEDIATE CONCENTRATION ON DETAILS OF THE INCIDENT ITSELF TO
COVERAGE OF PROTESTS BY VARIOUS GROUPS INCLUDING THE LOCAL CHAPTER
OF THE LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY. END SUMMARY.

2. MEDIA COVERAGE OF THE IE SHIMA INCIDENT INITIALLY FOCUSED
ON THE INCIDENT ITSELF AND ALLEGATIONS OF BRUTALITY BY U.S.
SERVICEMAN. PRESS REPORTS CHARGED THAT THE INCIDENT OCCURED AFTER

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THE RANGE HAD BEEN OPENED AND RED WARNING FLAGS LOWERED. THEY
CHARGED THAT THE VICTIM WAS AMONG A GROUP COLLECTING GRASS FOR
CATTLE FODDER AND THAT HE HAD BEEN SERIOUSLY INJURED. REPORTS
ALLEGED THAT AFTER THE INCIDENT THE U.S. SERVICEMAN FORCIBLY REMOVED
THE VICTIM FROM THE SCENE AND BRUTALLY DEPOSITED HIM AT A SPOT REMOTE
FROM HELP. THESE EXAGGERATED REPORTS HOWEVER HAD TO SHARE SPACE WITH
OTHER MAJOR NEWS ITEMS INCLUDING REPORTS THAT THE OKINAWA REGIONAL
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EXCHANGE (ORE) HAD DECIDED TO SHIFT VIRTUALLY ITS ENTIRE LOCAL STAFF

FROM FULL TIME TO PART TIME EMPLOYMENT AND NEWS OF PRIME MINISTER TANAKA'S DIFFICULTIES WITHIN THE LDP.

3. BEGINNING JULY 12 PRESS HAS FOCUSED ON PROTEST STATEMENTS AND ACTIVITIES OF VARIOUS INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS. MOST HAVE FOLLOWED LINE OF THE NORMALLY CONSERVATIVE IE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY WHICH VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO DEMAND (1) THE IMMEDIATE RETURN OF THE IE RANGE (2) THE RELEASE TO JAPANESE JURISDICTION OF THE AIRMAN INVOLVED (3) FULL COMPENSATION TO THE VICTIM AND (4) COMPENSATION TO THE FAMILY FOR MENTAL ANGUISH. ALSO NOTED WAS GOVERNOR YARA'S ANNOUNCED PLAN TO CALL ON USARGO CG GENERAL DAVID TO DEMAND RETURN OF THE RANGE.

4. THE PRESS HAS CHEERFULLY REPORTED THE INITIATIVE BY THE OKINAWA LDP ASKING THE SPEAKER TO CONVENE A SPECIAL SESSION OF THE

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PREFECTURAL ASSEMBLY TO PROTEST INCIDENT. LDP SPOKESMAN REPORTEDLY SAID THAT ALTHOUGH LDP SUPPORTS SECURITY TREATY IT WILL VOTE TO DEMAND THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF THE IE RANGE. FULL COVERAGE WAS ALSO GIVEN TO REPORTS THAT THE REVERSION COUNCIL (FUKKIKYO) AND THE ANTI A AND H BOMB COUNCIL (GENSUIKYO) ARE PLANNING SPECIAL MEETINGS (POSSIBLY JOINT) TO ADOPT PROJECT RESOLUTIONS AND TO CONSIDER TACTICS FOR DEALING WITH THE IE SHIMA INCIDENT. (AFTER A PROTEST CALL AT THE CONGEN, FUKKIKYO VICE CHAIRMAN TABA REMARKED CASUALLY THAT THE GROUP MIGHT DECIDE TO ADOPT SIT DOWN TACTICS AT THE IE RANGE.

5. COMMENT. THE BUILD-UP IN PRESS COVERAGE SUGGESTS THAT THE LEFT AND ITS ALLIES IN THE MEDIA FEEL THEY HAVE FOUND A GOOD ISSUE TO EXPLOIT. (THE LDP EVIDENTLY FEELS THAT IT CANNOT REMAIN OUTSIDE, PARTICULARLY AFTER IE SHIMA CONSERVATIVES SPOKE OUT SO CLEARLY.)

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